

Certain individual Dodecanesian Islands have fascinating histories that accurately illustrate Greek history. The Dodecanesian island of Patmos sheltered Saint John the Evangelist and it was there he wrote the Book of Revelation. The island of Kassos contributed a large fleet to the independence struggle and as well a large part of the Greek merchant fleet which aided the allied cause in the Second World War. Homer writes that the Dodecanesian Islands aided Agamemnon in the siege of Troy, where Rhodes bought from "that most pleasant land" nine "tall ships."

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Federation of the Dodecanesian Society of America and Canada do valuable work ensuring that the American and Canadian Dodecanese descendants develop strong and unbinding ties to their homeland of Greece. This organization does an admirable job promoting and instilling "enosis," the Greek word for ties to one's homeland, for thousands of my constituents and I am proud to recognize them today.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH O. WALTON,
JR., A SKI INDUSTRY LEADER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a ski industry leader. Ralph O. Walton Jr. announced on March 14th that he is retiring as Chairman of the Board of Crested Butte Mountain Resort, Inc. where he has been the driving force behind shaping Crested Butte as one of Colorado's premier destination mountain resorts. His leadership in this important industry deserves the recognition and praise of this body.

In 1970, Ralph and his brother-in-law, Howard H. (Bo) Callaway bought the Crested Butte Ski area. In the 30 years since, he has been the senior officer. "I have had a great 30 years at Crested Butte, but now is the right time for Martha and me to spend a little more time together and let the younger generation take the ski area forward," Ralph said.

Under his leadership, the resort invested over \$100 million in improvements, including 13 lifts, two warming houses, and 700,000 square feet of construction at the base area. He pioneered the first non stop, scheduled jet service to regional mountain airports, and developed both the Crested Butte Marriott Hotel and the Crested Butte Sheraton Hotel.

"Ralph Walton has been the guiding force behind the ski area at Crested Butte for the past 30 years and the ski area owes him a great debt of gratitude for helping it get to its position today. Everyone in Crested Butte will sorely miss his active leadership but we understand his desire to retire at this time," said Bo Callaway, the Resort's co-owner.

The 70 year old Georgia native graduated from Auburn University in 1951 with a BS in Electrical Engineering and spent two years in the United States Army as a First Lieutenant.

Ralph has also been associated with the National Ski Areas Association as a board member. He spent time as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Colorado Ski Country, USA and as a board member. He also worked for Westinghouse Electric Corporation for sixteen years.

Ralph has also found time to be active in Rotary International, the Optimist Club, IEEE, the Hamilton Baptist Church, and the United Congressional Church of Crested Butte.

Mr. Speaker, Colorado's ski industry is losing one of its great leaders. He has done so much for the ski industry, and for Crested Butte. I would like to take a moment to thank Ralph for all his work and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

BERENSTEIN BEAR BOOK DONATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF SAN ANTONIO

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share with you the devotion to public service displayed by a group known as the Southwestern Bell Communications (SBC) Telephone Pioneers. The San Antonio Council #40 of this organization worked diligently to have 991 popular Berenstain Bear books donated to their community's schools. With this donation they are taking concrete steps to promote reading of these fun books and others by elementary school children.

The SBC Telephone Pioneers have the goal of impacting over 86,000 families by donating a set of eleven books to ninety-one elementary schools in three different San Antonio school districts. The hope is that the teachers will read these stories about the popular Berenstain Bear family to help children better understand life's little and big issues while gaining an appreciation of reading books. Brother and sister bear share their stories of starting school, making friends, and dealing with their feelings while Mama and Papa give advice. They learn about honesty, sharing, and responsibility. These wonderful stories will not only help the children relate to different situations, but hopefully will also inspire the children to continue learning through reading.

This tremendous donation by the SBC Telephone Pioneers is commendable. The over 40,000 students that will have access to these books are fortunate. The SBC Telephone Pioneers have set an example of how to improve our communities one child at a time. The donation of these books is a special tribute to the children of San Antonio and volunteers who cared enough to make a difference.

HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS RESEARCH ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the High Performance Schools Research Act, a bill that would establish a research program at the National Science Foundation to quantify the relationship between the physical characteristics of elementary and secondary schools and student academic achievement in those schools.

I am pleased that my colleagues Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. HONDA are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

This legislation is part of a package of bills I plan to introduce or cosponsor that together will promote "federal smart growth." As we have seen in my state of Colorado, sprawl around our fast-growing towns and cities destroys valuable open space, farmland, wildlife, and natural, cultural and recreational resources. I believe that the federal government can do a better job to support state and community efforts to control growth and prevent sprawl.

I am introducing the High Performance Schools Research Act in conjunction with a bill I am reintroducing today, the High Performance Schools Act of 2001 (H.R. 3143 in the 106th Congress). The High Performance Schools Act takes the concept of "whole buildings" and puts it into the context of our schools, establishing a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce "high performance" school buildings. With energy costs and school enrollment on the rise and school buildings across the country in need of construction or major repairs, school districts need to have the appropriate tools and assistance to make good building decisions. The High Performance Schools Act is intended to help school districts make these good decisions, as well as to conserve energy and protect the environment.

In addition to the economic and environmental benefits of smart building choices, evidence is growing that high performance buildings are beneficial for student performance. A growing number of studies link student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions. A study from Mississippi State University, for example, showed that in schools in North Carolina, Texas and Nevada, variables such as natural light and climate control played a role in improved test scores, higher morale and fewer discipline problems. And in one of the most rigorous studies of its kind, a 1999 report commissioned by Pacific Gas & Electric found that students who took their lessons in classrooms with more natural light scored as much as 25 percent higher on standardized tests than other students in the same school district.

But while these studies have begun to reveal important information correlating a school building's environment with student performance, no large-scale, comprehensive study has been conducted to date. Understandably, school districts are reluctant to base infrastructure investment decisions on the results of a few narrowly conceived studies. So to give them the information they need to make better decisions, I am introducing the High Performance Schools Research Act, which will establish a National Science Foundation research program to thoroughly investigate the linkages between specific characteristics of the physical environment of a school and student learning. My hope is that further research will confirm initial findings correlating a school's environment to academic achievement, thus bolstering the case for high performance schools, which are themselves important components in any smart growth plan.

I look forward to working with my colleagues Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. HONDA and other Members of the House to move forward with this initiative.

THE HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS RESEARCH ACT

The High Performance Schools Research Act would establish a research program at